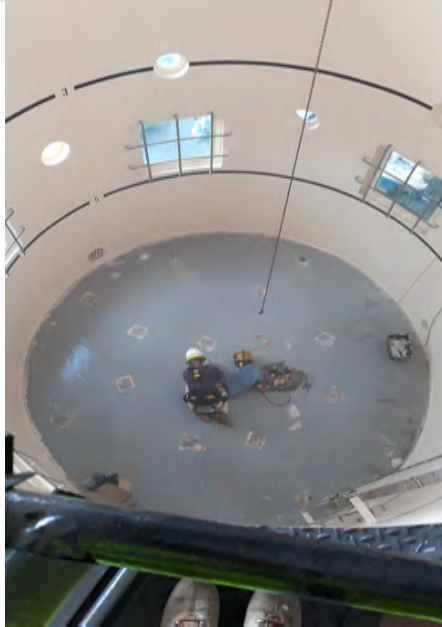


Ian Williams on  
behalf of  
Babcock International:  
**Devonport Dockyard  
Dive Tank**



# Project: Devonport Dockyard Dive Tank



**Task:** Internal decorations

## Products used:

- Corroless ACO Brush Grade

**Client:** Babcock International

## Background

The clearance diving unit in Plymouth is used for diving practice by the Royal Naval bomb disposal team, whose primary responsibility is to identify explosives and remove them.

Ian Williams undertook an internal decorations project at Devonport Dockyard's dive tank. This project was completed within required timescales and within the client's budget.

## Project Details:

Ian Williams painted the inside of the dive tank at Devonport Dockyard. Works included removal of existing coatings, application of specialist coatings, painting of depth markers and renewal of steel ladders and window grills. Key project details included:

- Tight, unmoveable timescales during staff summer leave to ensure dive tank was available for use when staff returned
- We specified specialist supplier Maker Coatings, who developed a bespoke specification for the project, to prevent corrosion
- Flexibility to accommodate client requirements: a variation occurred during the project as the client wanted black bands (depth markers) painted around the inside of the tank. We were able to accommodate this variation with the support of our directly employed team and specialist product specifiers, Maker Coatings
- Brush Grade coating used to achieve 1,000 micron thickness to ensure correct protection of the steel to ensure steel was not exposed, which would result in corrosion
- Renewal of steel ladders: we removed existing ladders and liaised with a specialist fabricator who manufactured made to measure ladders, which we then installed
- On completion of the project we attended the opening ceremony of the refurbished dive tank





## The Challenges...

Key challenges in this project included:

- **Access:** preparation of the area was challenging as the 7m tank had to be drained and then access towers had to be erected inside the tank
- **Removal of coatings:** initially we tried grit blasting to remove the existing coatings with a blast and vac system, however this didn't work as we were not able to generate enough pressure. We therefore spoke to specifier Maker Coatings who suggested mechanical preparation using air brushes and sanders to remove existing coatings
- **Managing dust:** removal of the existing coatings generated high volumes of dust. We therefore had to ensure appropriate personal protective equipment and the use of air extraction units
- **Working at height:** much of the work was from height from the internal towers. Ongoing tower inspections of the towers throughout the works as well as appropriate working at height training
- **Additional works:** the client requested a logo on the bottom of the tank, we commissioned the design and manufacture of a sticker which we then installed to the base of the tank



### Apprentices/Trainees:

2 x painting and decorating apprentices, Dan Rayner and Jonathan Cook

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